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1960-09-09, Bette to Parents

Bette J. Barto

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Subject Terms

Women and the military, Women and war, United States -- Air Force, United States -- Army -- Air Forces, Photographs, Armed Forces -- Correspondence, Correspondence -- Vietnam War -- 1961-1975, Christmas

Summary

This collection contains 139 correspondence from Maj. Bette J. Barto, USAFE to her parents while serving as a nurse during the late 1950s and 1960s. Also included are three photographs, one special orders document, and one marriage license. In several cases, Bette refers to her parents as "Lizzie" and "Hugh Elmer," or simply "Elmer." Three letters from 1961 or 1962 are undated and placed in a separate folder.

Keywords

1960-09-09, 1960-09-10

Identifier

2017-219-w-r-_Barto_ColdWar_1960-09-09

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Saturday Nite
9^{PM} (10 Sept 60)

Dear Mom and Daddy
I received ^{both} your
letters, written 3 September -
and I'm glad you have
had some word from me.
Ray isn't getting his letters
very promptly and I write
at least every other nite. He
hasn't received his scarf yet
either, and he mailed me some
records ages ago by air mail and
I haven't gotten them. I haven't had
a letter written by him since a
week ago Thursday; so I guess the
mail is goofed up all around.
I did receive the thread (R. W. Black)
and thanks, Mom. I also heard from
Liz Long Asensio so I guess I'll
write her eventually. That's the second
letter I've had from her in 78 yrs.

Mom, do you need the gold thread
right away? If not, I'll put it in
with something else I mail to you.
No, I hadn't used it on my table
cloth. I'm so slow, you will probably
have to finish it. I get tired so
quickly with all the other things I

can cook up to waste my time.
In home alone - pretty cozy tonight.
Anne is at the Club with an
army helicopter pilot who took her
flying today. Mary, my little red-
headed bath room mate, is out with
her current beau, a dentist, real
nice guy. I feel like an old
mattel her, trying to get her ready
to go on a date - "fix my hair", "snap
my dress, sew this, pin that" - she's
24, and that makes me feel 132!
What's more, with my ever increas-
ing number of grey hairs I'll soon
load it.

I worked today, as usual,
and have tomorrow off. I may
play golf if I can dig up a
second to play too.

The Rainy season started yester-
day. I came home from work
to find my roof leaking -
water was literally pouring in
on the foot of my bed! I stopped
and mopped, called billowing
and reported it and, military-
like, they did nothing and it
poured again last nite. I
had to get up at 1 am mop
my floor, move my bed out in

3-
The middle of the floor and
put my rubber dish pan and
cone coaler under the drips -
I was mad until I found out
our new hospital leaked and 2
of the wards had buckets on the
floor too! These Arabs who built
our buildings forget from year
to the next that it does rain
in N. Africa. It looks funny
outside again tonight, so I'll
probably get it again!

Sounds like you're becoming
a business tycoon, Mom - lending
money - I think it's smarter than
lending it to your kids - they
think what's theirs is theirs and
what's yours is theirs too! That's
the sick way we operated
all these years! That will
all be charged because Ray
is very fussy about my money
and what I do with it. He just
raises hell if I try to spend
any of it on something foolish
or something for him - I'm saving
pretty well for my car - if he's
able to make a deal for it for
me so I won't have to go to the
continent after it. He will really
have to have 2 with both of us
reporting in at different hours.
If I don't get it, well do ok

without it, but I would like a little one.

I got my written permission from my Commander to be married and I will apply for a Certificate from the Libyan Government on Monday. Ray has to ask my Commander also. It doesn't seem as difficult as I had thought at first.

As far as I know, we will be married in uniform, but I don't know too much about the military wedding. None of my chums have a silver tan and that's the uniform that is in use during October. So I may ask Mrs. Salisbury and her husband, Jack, if Ray doesn't prefer some other officer for his best man. Jack is a Master Sergeant. I have to get on the stick and find out about all this. None of my troops know anything about military wedding. None has been to one.

Ray's Lam woke me up at 1 am Tuesday nite - straight from Charleston. Ray had flown down there from Seymour on Friday a.m. one of the MATS Transport pilots who fly the big troop carriers over here regularly brought it.

I met him at the bus stop
in front of my B.O.2. so he could
find me easily and the next
morning, Maryland I had Perry-
cured Country fried ham, eggs,
apple sauce, slice tomatoes, toast
and coffee for breakfast!

I came home and had ham
for supper tonight - I promised
Ray to save him a piece -
but it's so good, he'd better hurry.
One of the mess hall sergeants
said he'd slice it up for me -
cause I have no way to cut the
bone here - but Ray picked
a good one - not real big - just
right, as he knew, for our small
refrigerator. It was so sweet of
him to think of me - cause he
knows I love fried ham almost
as well as he does!

Well, I'll quit, and maybe
sew a bit before I turn in. I'm
tired and lonesome tonight, but
I didn't want to go to the Club.
It's not much fun without Ray.

Only 130 more days -

Love & Miss you both!

I mailed Dad's birthday
gift 8 Sept. Airmail -